

after her father witnessed the brutal lynching of two young black boys. Annie recalls her father telling her and her siblings of his expectation that they strive to make the world a better place, a lesson that has remained with her throughout her lifetime. It was this desire to make a positive change in her community that likely led to her graduation from Ball State Teachers College in hopes of returning to teach in Hammond.

Unfortunately, Annie's desire to improve her community by educating the city's children would not come without opposition. Despite being five years after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka ruling of the Supreme Court to end segregation in schools, Ms. Burns-Hicks's application for a teaching position was rejected without consideration, as she was told the city was "not ready for a colored teacher." Undeterred, and remembering her father's inspirational words encouraging her to be a force of change, Annie pressed on through the courts and won, thus allowing her to become the first African American teacher in the city of Hammond in 1960 and paving the way for the many future teachers who would follow in her footsteps. During her tenure, Ms. Burns-Hicks co-authored the first full-day kindergarten program in the city, a contribution that truly enhanced the educational opportunities for the community's young children.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Annie Burns-Hicks. Ms. Burns-Hicks broke barriers as Hammond's first African American teacher, and in doing so, has been a true inspiration and a source of tremendous pride to her community. Throughout her more than forty years of teaching, she touched countless lives. It is fitting that the school now bears her name for the generations to come.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS BURKOT

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louis Burkot as he celebrates 40 years as the founding artistic director of Opera North in Lebanon, NH.

Among his accomplishments, Louis has conducted the Dartmouth College Glee Club and more than 700 Opera North Resident Artists from around the world. His expertise in vocal and choral music has contributed significantly to the Upper Valley community and beyond. Louis' knowledge of vocal and operatic music has been invaluable for many young singers, many of whom have gone on to major careers around the world.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Louis for his many years of service, and for being a part of what makes the Granite State so great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Louis on 40 years of incredible work, and I wish him many more.

VIRGINIA THEATRE, CHAMPAIGN, IL 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois, which celebrated 100 years of business on December 28, 2021.

In 1921, Charles "C.C." Pyle made the decision to build a major entertainment venue in downtown Champaign, an area that had been known as a cultural hotspot. He initially had a vision of a 12-story hotel with a large theatre space, but that quickly changed. The final building resulted in a stand-alone, multipurpose performing arts center.

In January of 2000, the Champaign Park District made countless efforts to prevent this landmark from demolition. Once they assumed control of the theatre, it went on to grow into a \$10 million restoration project to bring the theatre back to life.

Through the years, the Virginia Theatre has been the "place to be" for friends, families, and colleagues in the community. The Theatre hosts local productions, concerts, movies, live theatrical plays, stand-up comedy events, and many more.

Congratulations to the Virginia Theatre on their 100th anniversary, and I wish them all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRIVATE OLIVER CROMWELL

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Private Oliver Cromwell, one of the most decorated Black soldiers who served in the American Revolutionary War.

Private Cromwell was born in 1753 in Mansfield Township, New Jersey, and in 1776 he enlisted in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment. He crossed the Delaware River with General George Washington and went on to fight for American independence in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Monmouth, Short Hills, and Yorktown. At the conclusion of the war, Cromwell received the Badge of Merit for six years of faithful service to the Army and was honorably discharged by General Washington in 1783.

Following his service, Cromwell fathered 15 children in Burlington Country and loved to share stories of his time as a "Drummer in the Revolution" with his family and the community. Cromwell passed away at 101 years old in 1853, and he is buried in Burlington at the Broad Street Methodist Church cemetery. Oliver Cromwell risked everything fighting for freedom in a country that did not recognize his own right to freedom. For these sacrifices, Oliver Cromwell should be eternally remembered for his contributions toward America's independence. Burlington County is grateful for Private Cromwell's dedication, sacrifice, patriotism, and honorable personal conduct.

Nine generations of his descendants have resided in Burlington County, some of whom still reside in the 3rd District today and continue to honor their familial legacy through community engagement, service, and historic preservation. I am grateful for Private Cromwell's descendants' continued contributions to our community and am proud to be honoring the life and legacy of their ancestor on this day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARVIN YELLOWHAIR

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Marvin Yellowhair, a beloved Navajo community leader who passed away in March.

Throughout Marvin's life, he made immense contributions to numerous fields, and is remembered as a devoted son, brother, father, husband, uncle, nephew, grandfather, coach, author, musician, actor, storyteller, runner, carpenter, politician, Council Delegate, and School Board Member.

After graduating from Rough Rock High School and attending Mesa Community College, Dine College, Northern Arizona University, and the University of New Mexico, he dedicated his life to the advancement of Navajo language, culture, and history developing bilingual and bicultural curriculum materials and publishing several books of his own.

He continued his efforts developing Navajo language materials and books throughout his career, translating for notable artists, authors, and craftsmen. Among many accomplishments, he was the voice actor for Darth Vader from the Navajo version of the movie *Star Wars*, and worked with Oxford University out of New York to develop an English and Navajo picture dictionary and Rosetta Stone audio recordings to support the teaching and learning of the Navajo language.

Throughout 30 years at Rough Rock Community School, as both a teacher of Navajo language, and a beloved basketball, football, and baseball coach, Marvin was well-known by colleagues and students for his passion for Navajo culture and history, and his gift for storytelling and leadership.

A devoted advocate for Navajo self-determination in education and strong supporter of Navajo Nation veterans, his legacy in the Rough Rock and Black Mesa communities will live on for generations to come.

The Navajo Nation and the state of Arizona have lost a great leader. My wife and I are keeping his many loved ones, friends, students, and colleagues in our hearts as they mourn his passing.

WHAT CAN JWB DO FOR CD 13?

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.